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Farm · Home · School

Everywhere!



SINCE
1858

MACDONALD'S *Quality Tobacco Products*



Putting Props Under Farm Production

These are days of uncertainty. Uncertainty in international affairs, fanned by the so-called "cold war" that sometimes blows uncomfortably hot. Uncertainty in trade, because of intangible things like dollar balances that make it impossible for some people to buy the things they need, and for others to supply them from their plenty. Uncertainty in private affairs, because of the fear of a depression following a break in the high spiral of prices.

For the farmer there are other uncertainties, too—some he has always known. If there were nothing that could be done about them the situation would really be hopeless. But many farmers have found ways of putting props under them so that, if anything should happen, they would not be injured as much as the less provident.

There are numerous sorts of props. One type is the co-operative, through which a group of farmers can strive to get more returns per unit of production. Another is the commodity agreement used for the same purpose.

But there is still another way of increasing returns. It is to increase production; and while the other systems require group action, a single farmer can take action to insure his production, even if his neighbours are not interested. He can do it in a limited way by insuring against hail or fire or floods; and insurance of this type has saved many a farmer from at least temporary ruin. But there is another approach he can use, as well.

Apart from markets, the greatest hazards in farming are weather, insects and disease. It is frequently said that farmers can do nothing about the weather—which is true enough. But it might also be said that we can do considerable to minimize the effects of the weather. In fact, every good farmer does quite a lot in this direction.

The great hazards of weather are frost, drought and overwetness. Much of the frost hazard has been overcome by using quick-maturing strains of crops that can be seeded late in the season and harvested early. Still more tender plants can be grown on parts of the farm that are protected from cold winds and are not subject to ground frosts. Moisture-loving crops can be grown in sections that are subject to flooding—if good drainage

will not cure the trouble. And where drought is a major hazard its effects can be lessened by using varieties able to withstand it and by following practices that conserve moisture—or by irrigation where this is practical.

Nor are we completely at the mercy of either plant diseases or harmful insects. Plant breeders have developed strains that resist many of our worst diseases and insect pests. And treatments for prevention or control enable us to keep ahead of many others. In the last resort, if we are completely unable to get the better of a disease or an insect with one type of crop, we can usually shift to another which will be immune to these particular troubles.

Nor, in our battle to increase production, are we limited to outwitting things that lower production. While using all the techniques at our disposal for this purpose we can work on a still more positive basis—to increase the inherent productiveness of our land. This may be done most easily and cheaply in many cases by simply choosing suitable rotations of crops. And the effectiveness of rotations may be increased by manuring, or by applying lime or commercial fertilizers to provide elements in low supply.

So the farmer is by no means unarmed in his struggle to increase production. And in many cases he has taken up the challenge and won the battle in the face of what were apparently great odds—odds that took one of his neighbours after another right out of the fight. When one farmer prospers while those around him go down to defeat there is usually more than luck behind his success. In most cases it is not too difficult to see that he adapted himself to the circumstances, doing everything in his power to increase his production.

Then, when the price per unit goes down in spite of all that he is able to do in co-operation with his fellow farmers, his total income may still be high enough for him to enjoy a reasonable standard of living.

Our Cover Picture

The photo used for our cover illustration this month was taken by Miss Evelyn Walker, the Quebec Women's Institutes' demonstrator, during a recent visit to Rawdon, P.Q. She calls it "Spring comes to a Laurentian stream."

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Are We Past the Peak?

Most food prices have reached higher peaks this winter than their top marks in the post-war boom of 1919-20. But now they appear to be on the down-grade, which should mean more stability.

by J. E. Lattimer

THE decline in prices is now front page news. Prices of raw products and goods at retail were both affected. The slump in late January and early February raised the question whether this was simply a necessary adjustment from a too high level or evidence that we have passed the peak of the inflationary period.

One of the first matters to observe at the moment is that retail prices in food products moved with, if they did not precede, wholesale prices. This is not always the case. Retail prices usually follow changes in wholesale prices. And it is sometimes maintained that they follow so slowly that they are not always within hailing distance. This time, particularly in food products such as meats, retail prices dropped first—due to consumer resistance. This is doubtless as it should be, the purchasing power and willingness to pay being the deciding factor. It may indicate a return to the condition, lost sight of during the war years, when the customer was always right.

Another comparison that should be interesting is with the peak of the post-war boom of 1920. There are difficulties of going back so far for comparable figures. Index numbers may be used for this purpose. But index numbers do not give as clear a picture as actual prices of goods. The peak of food prices of 1920 occurred in the month of June of that year. Comparison of prices of June 1920 and November 1947 for food items at retail are given in the following table:

Retail Prices

	1920	1947
	June	November
	c.	c.
Beef, sirloin, per lb.	41.5	50.4
Bacon, per lb.	55.8	62.0
Eggs, fresh, per doz.	56.0	60.7
Butter, creamery, per lb.	66.8	63.8
Cheese, new, per lb.	38.2	51.8
Bread, per lb.	9.6	9.1
Milk, per quart	14.6	15.4
Sugar, per lb.	22.6	10.0
Tea, per lb.	66.0	101.8
Coffee, per lb.	60.8	56.2

The similarity between November and the peak of 1920 is apparent from this table. And we now know that bread, butter, bacon and milk are all higher in price

than in November 1947. When later records are available this will be made clear. But if we wish to discuss the matter of whether or not we have reached the peak, it is necessary to do it now.

Sugar seems to be the only item that is significantly cheaper today than in 1920. All the other items are about the same price or substantially above the price prevailing at that time.

Are We Past the Peak?

The facts behind the recent fall in prices may shed some light on this question. Starting with grain prices, it may be pointed out that crop prospects have recently improved throughout the world. The Southern Hemisphere is now harvesting a record grain crop. This includes Australia, South Africa and Argentina. This is in striking contrast to conditions last year, when these countries were still suffering from a prolonged drought. The same weather that produced a good grain crop in Australia has improved pastures, and a record for a number of years is expected in 1948 butter production.

Europe, which suffered from a severe winter in 1946-47, followed by serious drought last summer, has had a mild winter and expects higher yields from larger areas.

The United States, that has had four of its five billion bushel crops in the past four years, now expects another billion bushel crop. This was not expected a few months ago due to lack of snow cover. Recent reports indicate improved prospects. Canada may as yet only point to two facts favouring increased production. One is above-normal fall moisture in the soil and the second is a guarantee of \$2.00 per bushel for the 1948 crops. This latter point should be sufficient to promote increased acreage.

It has been in meats that retail prices have, so far, declined most due to consumer resistance. This is to be expected, as meats are more elastic in demand than some of the cheaper foods. When consumers refuse to buy, a price reduction may be expected. Wholesale prices will of necessity decline. Producers' prices will also be reduced, specially when grain prices, the raw material for animal products have already fallen.

The Dollar Scarcity

Money matters also have considerable influence. While there is no scarcity of currencies in each individual country there does seem to be a scarcity of certain kinds of money. This scarcity is in that type of currency that is acceptable to those countries now having the required goods.

At the same time there appears to be an effort in many countries to try and get more goods into export channels, even though it may require a reduction of local or domestic purchasing power by printing less currency.



Set Your Sights on High Producers

● This is Prince Valiant, a mighty boar weighing 650 pounds when 16 months old. He sold for \$500—not for his fine looks nor his load of loin and bacon, but for his promise as a sire. He has the build and the blood to boost pork production in countless litters of market hogs.

Fast growth by the pig yields higher production per hour of herd care. Fast work in the field is the way for a man to tend more acres, grow more corn, feed more swine, get a higher yield of pork per hour. That's what counts in farming today—*yield per man*.

Better sires and better seeds add to the yield per animal and per acre. Better machines add to the number of acres and animals per man. Case machines are built a bit better than might seem necessary. Hence they hold down the time and cost for upkeep. As you look ahead to your own farming business, look to Case for equipment that will give you extra years from your investment, extra rewards from your acres and your hours. J. I. Case Co., Toronto, Ont.



Fast work in heavy crops of hybrid corn is the purpose for which Case pickers are built. The one-row size, as here, fits the power and speed of two-plow tractors, suits the conditions of medium to small fields. The two-row size, by applying the power of larger tractors, harvests about twice as many acres per hour. Both sizes unhitch quickly to free the tractor for other work. Both sizes have a powerful blast fan to blow out loose leaves, silks, smut, etc. Corn goes to the crib cleaner, cures quicker.

CASE



This attempt is becoming increasingly popular at the moment.

Emphasis on production and exchange of goods between countries is the obvious method of tackling the problem. Hence the lowering of tariffs, agreed to at Geneva, is the best bet for longtime policy. It is quite certain that until international trade becomes more firmly established there will be an interim period when volume of trade between nations may be temporarily reduced. This may explain the lull in shipping at the moment.

Summary

This note has mentioned world conditions and specially the affairs of the United States. Recently it was feared that the upward pull of prices in the United States might make it hard for Canada to fight inflation, as it was impossible to keep prices in the two countries far apart for long. So the adjustment coming from lower prices in the United States should be welcome news.

All things considered, it appears that the peak has been passed. This may be a very good thing, because it may lead to a rise in real wages without an increase in money wages and costs of production. It may thus permit maximum employment in supplying the backlog of needs which is still great.

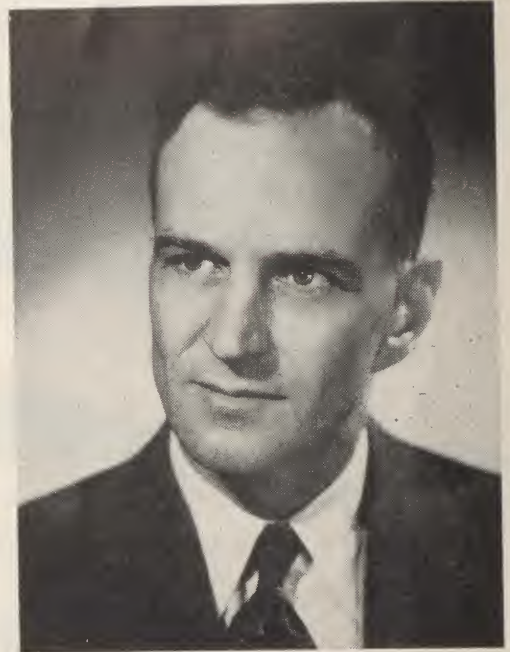
Get Everything Ready for Spraying

It is now time for growers to give attention to matters concerning the season's spray operations. The spray outfit should be put in good working order. A careful inspection of the machine before operations commence is necessary to detect badly worn parts, to check on hose connections, gaskets, and other parts. New parts are more readily available and servicing more easily obtained prior to than during the spraying season and should be arranged for as soon as possible.

An overhaul now will save costly delays later on due to mechanical breakdown or loss of time and labour through inefficient operation. The value of a spray may be completely lost if it becomes necessary to wait several days for repairs to sprayers, says G. C. Chamberlin, Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, St. Catharines, Ont.

It is advisable to scrape with a wire brush the interior of spray tanks to remove scale deposits which may cause the plugging of nozzles. Where there is a heavy encrustation of scale in the spray tank, a good cleaner solution consisting of one-half lb. of tri-sodium phosphate to 25 gallons of water, may be used to advantage. Worn nozzle discs should be replaced to give the best distribution of spray materials.

Failure to secure good control with dormant spray applications is frequently due to delay in application caused by wet soil conditions. All surface drains should therefore be kept open to lessen the possibility of such delay.



Fergus Mutrie

THE job of catering to Canadian farmers' information needs is a difficult one. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation tackles it through its Farm Broadcast Department, which was responsible for more than 2,500 programs last year, nearly 1,200 of them half-hour shows.

The guiding hand behind these broadcasts, the man who plans them for all of Canada, is Fergus Mutrie, CBC supervisor of farm broadcasts, who has his headquarters in the Toronto studios.

Mutrie's understanding of farmers and their problems is based on both practical and technical knowledge. He can look back on 20 years of general farm work, dairying, fruit and vegetable growing.

Born in Regina in 1905, young Fergus moved with his family to Vernon, B.C., when he was still in short pants. There he was associated with his father, J. T. Mutrie, in the production of registered and certified seed. Their Okanagan property is one of the largest seed farms in Canada, specializing in onion seed. On finishing school, Mutrie enrolled at the University of British Columbia, bent on adding technical knowledge to his solid farming experience.

Fergus Mutrie was CBC's Farm Broadcast Commentator for British Columbia in Vancouver for four years before coming to Toronto in 1944 as Assistant Supervisor of the Farm Broadcast Department. He became Supervisor in 1945.

The backbone of Mr. Mutrie's work is general supervision of the regional noon-hour broadcasts, on the air



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five days a week, every week of the year. They provide marketing information and prices, practical farming information, weather forecasts, agricultural news and the popular farm-family dramas. During the winter months his department is responsible for National Farm Radio Forum—now in its eighth year of operation—and he often acts as broadcast chairman. In the warm-weather months, Farm Forum is replaced by "Summerfallow," a weekly drama broadcast designed to interpret rural life in one part of Canada to those who live in another, and to tell the story of agriculture to city listeners.

Mr. Mutrie's activities also include supervision of the Sunday gardening broadcasts, which serve both rural and urban gardeners, and in the Maritimes his department serves fishermen with the Fishermen's Broadcast five days a week.

Because few farmers can take time off to go after special farming information just when they need it, Fergus Mutrie's aim is to bring Canadian farmers the best available information and advice on everything that might interest them—at the season of the year when it will be most useful.

Crops to Fit Your Farm

Hay, pasture and grain crops are the foundation of any livestock program. Here's a discussion of leading varieties that will help you to select those most likely to succeed on your farm.

by J. Ritchie Cowan

NO LIVESTOCK farm can pay its way unless the stock get plenty of good feed. This year feed prices are considerably higher, so it's more important than ever that farmers get the highest possible yield from every acre of grain and forage crops.

To secure these results it's necessary to follow good cultural practices and use suitable varieties. No matter how well a crop is handled, there isn't much hope for profitable returns unless the variety used is suitable for that particular farm. It's necessary to know the strengths and weaknesses of leading varieties, to make an intelligent choice of the ones likely to do best under a certain set of conditions.

Timothy, red clover and alsike are the crops most commonly used for hay, and they are quite satisfactory for silage, as well. The two legumes are short-lived; red clover may last two years, while alsike is good for only one season. Timothy does not recover very rapidly after cutting; this feature does not affect its use as hay, but makes it not too satisfactory for pasture.

The most desirable pasture is a combination of grasses and legumes which will provide a uniform supply of good feed throughout the grazing season. Perennial legumes and grasses quick to recover after cutting would be valuable assists. New crops such as Ladino clover, Birdsfoot trefoil, Orchard grass, Brome grass and Meadow fescue may all have a place. Some of these species have been used in pasture experiments in the Eastern Townships where they've shown considerable promise. However, until more is known about them, they shouldn't be used unless recommended by a representative of the Experimental Farms, Agricultural Colleges or other authorities on pasture species, who has had an opportunity to personally survey the land being seeded down.



A fine stand of mixed grass and legumes.

Ladino clover is a perennial. It's very productive and will withstand heavy grazing. But it must be carefully managed. Birdsfoot trefoil is also a perennial, very productive once established. But it is slow to get established and is of little value until the second or third year. Brome grass has shown a high degree of drought resistance. The chief difficulty with this grass is that no really satisfactory method of seeding has yet been found.

In general, Orchard grass and Meadow fescue lack winter hardiness. These are useful pasture grasses, if hardy strains can be developed. We still need to learn more about how to handle all of these new species.

Some varieties of timothy and red clover seed can now be secured in this province. These include Milton and Drummond timothy, while Dollard and Ottawa red

clover are recommended by the Quebec Seed Board. But the seed supply of these four varieties is limited.

Turning to grain crops, more work has been done and many varieties have been developed. Farmers have become quite variety-conscious with respect to oats and barley, the two most important grain crops. However, at times they're somewhat puzzled as to why new varieties are continually appearing. The answer is that it is impossible to combine all the desirable features in a variety at one step. The plant breeder must patiently build up new varieties containing as many as possible of the desired characters. Then, as soon as a new strain is found, superior to the standard varieties being used, it is put on the market so that farmers may benefit from its use.

The yield of grain is the farmer's prime concern, but there are several other characters which must be considered as well; and they all have a direct bearing on yield. These include rust resistance, time required to reach maturity, strength of straw, smooth awns in barley and low hull content in oats.

Rust is probably one of the most serious diseases of oats, but it isn't nearly as big a problem in barley production. It cannot be controlled by seed treatment. Nature is continually developing new forms or races of rust. Thus a new variety may be released which is resistant to prevailing forms of rust in a district—and yet it might be infected by a new race. There are also two kinds of rust, leaf and stem.

A great deal of thought has been given to rust resistance in all improvement programs of recent years. As a result there are several good varieties which carry considerable rust resistance. At higher elevations and in areas where seeding is usually late, it is best to have early varieties of oats. Such varieties as Mabel and Cartier are very satisfactory; they are both early and high yielding. Cartier is shorter in the straw than Mabel, and has white grain. Mabel might be criticized for its reddish coloured grain—this, of course, does not detract from its feeding value. Both have a low hull content. Mabel carries some rust resistance while Cartier has none. But often they escape rust epidemics because of their earliness.

In areas where medium maturing varieties meet the needs, Vanguard, Ajax, Erban and Beaver are suitable. Vanguard resists stem rust, and Erban is leaf rust resistant. Beaver, a cross between Erban and Vanguard, carries resistance to both races of stem and leaf rust. Ajax has considerable resistance to stem rust and some to leaf rust but it's very high in hull.

Roxton is proving a very desirable variety where seasons will permit a late maturing variety. It's high yielding with considerable rust resistance, low hull content and stiff straw. It's much superior to Banner and Victory, varieties that take much the same time to mature.



More and more, Canadian farmers everywhere are finding that the B of M is solidly behind the Farm Improvement Loan plan. Backing its confidence in Canadian agriculture by lending farmers ready cash, the B of M is helping them put into effect their plans to make their farms more productive and profitable.

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Barley is grown both for malting and feed. Any variety is suitable for feed, providing it's a high yielder. Much work has been done to develop varieties with smooth awns. Rough awns are very undesirable from the standpoint of handling. Barley straw in general is weak—it seems very difficult to get stiff straw.

Pontiac and O.A.C.21 are two high yielding rough awn barleys. O.A.C.21 has been the malting standard for years in Canada. However, with the recent release and popularity of the smooth-awned Montcalm variety, O.A.C.21 will undoubtedly be replaced.

Montcalm has been found very acceptable by the maltsters and has two of the features that are of most interest to the farmer—high yield and smooth awns.

Another variety which appears to have considerable promise in the Eastern Townships is Peatland. As yet, Peatland is not recommended by the Quebec Seed Board. However, extensive studies which have been conducted by the Experimental Station at Lennoxville have shown that Peatland is a high yielder. It's rough-awned but has exceptionally strong straw.

When thinking of a crop for silage, our minds usually turn to corn. In marginal corn areas, grass silage is a keen competitor today. But where corn can be successfully grown every year with a good yield, it provides a very high quality of feed at a relatively low cost.

To-day we are living in a hybrid era. Some of our merchants carry only hybrid this or hybrid that in their warehouses. The old open-pollinated varieties of corn are

rapidly disappearing from the market. This means that the farmer must acquaint himself with this new trend and its significance in his cropping practice. Hybrids are usually sold under the name of the producer or company plus a number or letter. Wisconsin 240 and Canada 240 are exactly the same, while DeKalb 240 is entirely different. So, when buying hybrid corn it's necessary to specify both the name and number to make certain you'll get the hybrid you want.

Canada or Wisconsin 531 and 606, and Algonquin are suited to the Eastern Township regions. It must be remembered that hybrids like Canada or Wisconsin 531 and 606 have been primarily designed for grain purposes. So, regardless of the fact that they are hybrids, they may not be the best for ensilage.

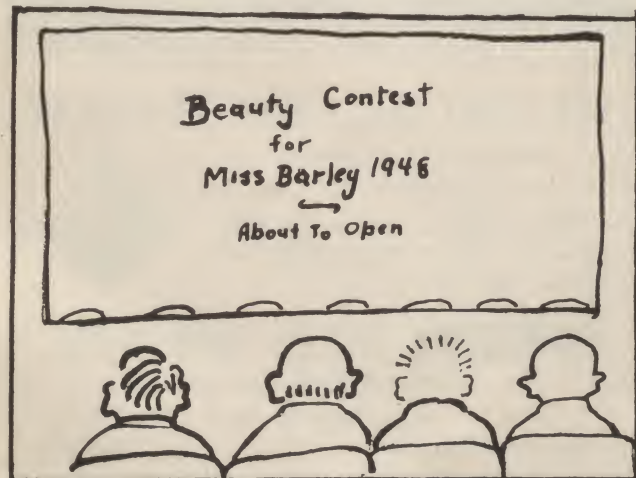
Considerable work has been done by the Agronomy Department of Macdonald College to develop a hybrid suited primarily for ensilage. The varietal hybrid Algonquin is a product of this research. Other superior hybrids are due to follow shortly.

Turnips are probably the most extensively grown of the root crops. With the present cost of labour, it doesn't pay to produce them for livestock feed. But when they're handled as table stock for a cash crop turnips can prove quite profitable if the right variety is used.

The four varieties of turnips recommended by the Quebec Seed Board are Laurentian, Ditmars Bronze Top, Acadia and Wilhelmsberger. Laurentian is best suited for the table stock trade.

What's Wanted in Barley

Farmers have been quite outspoken in asking for new barley varieties to meet changing conditions, says W. H. Johnston of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man., in a report to the National Barley and Linseed Flax Committee. Changes brought about by increased mechanization present problems that the farmer cannot meet successfully with the varieties at his disposal.



Here are some of Mr. Johnston's comments on what farmers want in a barley variety, and what progress has been made toward meeting these demands:

1. Yield—Yield probably always will be one of the main considerations governing choice of variety. It is, of course, a relative thing depending on a lot of other factors. To a farmer, yield represents the number of bushels he can successfully take off a given acreage. Such factors as shatterability, disease resistance, insect resistance, straw strength are intimately associated with yield and must be given their place along with soil, rainfall and temperature in the consideration of any long-term barley improvement programme.

2. Suitability for Combining—There is no doubt that the West is rapidly approaching the time when any variety of barley, to merit serious consideration, will have to be suitable for combine harvesting. This means a non-shattering barley with heads carried on stout, erect necks, so that there will be a minimum of head dropping. Reasonable straw strength is desirable, but not essential, since lodged barley can be picked up as long as the heads do not break off. There have been varietal differences noted in the tendency of swathed barley to

An important problem:

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Good wiring is the secret of the economical use of electric power.

An electric service is installed not for only a year or two but for a generation.

The farmer must not forget this point!

When he is having electricity brought to his farm, he must be sure that the wires are large enough and that there will be sufficient outlets installed to provide for present and future loads.

It is always cheaper to have appropriate wiring done right at the beginning!

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BUREAU QUEBEC

Published by the Publicity Bureau of the Province of Quebec.

settle into the stubble. General, smooth-awned varieties are inclined to settle more than rough-awned and two-rowed more than six-rowed.

3. Barley for Summerfallow—The greater prominence given the barley crop during the war has resulted in a considerably increased acreage being shown on summerfallow. This, in turn, has emphasized the importance of straw strength.

4. Adapted for Late Seeding—There has been considerable agitation for a barley that might profitably be used to replace present varieties for late seeding. The chief requirements of such barley would probably be early maturity, rust resistance and head resistance.

5. Drought Resistance—This is obviously an essential characteristic of any variety for the open plains area. Earliness of maturity is an important factor in drought resistance. There are differences between varieties in their ability to withstand high temperature as well as soil drought.

6. Grasshopper tolerance — Barley varieties differ quite markedly in the amount of damage they may suffer from grasshopper attack. As a rule, barley with erect heads suffer less than nodding types. Two-rowed varieties are more susceptible than six-rowed.

7. Smooth Awns — Farmers favour smooth awns, but many would be willing to forego this advantage for higher yield and improved quality. As a result of the

greater use of the combine in harvesting barley, smooth awns have not the same significance they had 10 years ago, when much of the crop was handled in the stook.

8. Ease of Threshing—Some of the smooth-awned varieties are characterized by persistent awns and cannot be threshed satisfactorily unless completely dry. Persistent awns are a source of great worry to the farmer, and this character should be watched closely by plant breeders.

9. Disease Resistance—There are several diseases responsible for yield losses in barley, but the farmer is only vocal about those he can readily recognize. He is greatly concerned about loose smut, and is interested in rust resistance, particularly where late seeding is practised. The susceptibility of smooth-awned varieties to Ergot is also a source of worry to him. And he is vaguely worried about the effects of root rot and a number of the leaf diseases. In brief, the farmer is anxiously looking to the plant breeder for improved disease-resistant barleys.

10. Malting Quality—The distribution of Montcalm barley has gone a long way to meet the farmers' wants for a smooth-awned barley that would not only equal O.A.C.21 in malting quality, but which would show improved yield and less inclination to shatter. It has not, however, met their demands for a malting barley of high disease resistance, nor one that could be combined with safety.

Horses Need Spring Overhaul

Both tractors and horses, need a thorough overhauling in preparation for heavy work in the spring, and both need a gradual breaking in to heavy work, says J. G. Stothart, Division of Animal Husbandry, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

With the horse it is its general condition, feet, possibly teeth, and the harness, that will need attention. It is possible on the general farm to keep the horses in good condition on light regular work during the winter; but when horses are not worked during the winter, some thought should be given to getting them ready for the heavy work in spring. About two weeks to a month before heavy work starts the feed should be increased gradually, to put on some extra flesh as well as tone the horse up generally.

While the horse is regarded as a dumb animal, actually it responds tremendously to care and consideration. It should be handled and groomed regularly. Much of the winter coat can be removed by constant grooming and, if this is done, sweating too much when heavy work starts will be avoided.

To improve the pulling power and often avoid later

lameness the horse's feet should be trimmed. If a horse does not put on weight with good feed and light work, it is possible that his teeth are not right. If this is so, the teeth should be filed so that the horse will get the best advantages from the feed.

In addition to overhauling the harness by washing, mending and oiling, it is important that harness be properly fitted. Nothing hinders the performance of a horse more than an ill-fitting collar. It should be just big enough to allow an even distribution of the pull on the shoulders. For the first few days of heavy work the condition of the shoulders should be watched carefully and the face of the collar should be kept clean to avoid grinding dirt into the shoulders. Loss of time through breaks and injury to the horse can often be avoided by proper care and fitting of the harness.

Big Numbers to Battle

There are, in the world today 500,000 known species of insects. A large number of these are our friends. But every farmer knows that, unless he wages a continuous war against insects, his crops would be ruined.

First Step in Rat Clean-Up Is to Get Rid of Junk Piles

No matter how many rats you poison, trap or kill by other means, you'll still have them around the place as long as you make things comfortable and homelike for them. A clean-up program is the first essential for any farmer or city dweller who wants to get rid of rats. The first thing to do is to clean up old board piles and stacks of junk or brush. These make excellent hiding places for rats.

Pile boards on supports at least 2 feet off the ground. Burn trash. Cart away old cans, broken machinery and other metal. Cut down brush or heavy weed growth around the area where the rats are prevalent.

When the clean-up job is completed, then start killing. Use poison, traps, gas or any other practical means. Shooting sometimes helps. A dog is often good, especially if the rats can't easily elude him under an old trash pile.

The last step in a good rat drive is to make the buildings as nearly rat-proof as possible. Raise them at least 12 inches above the ground and set them on concrete if possible. Stop up holes and other natural rat runways with metal, screening or cement.

Put tin around door jambs, and arrange self-closing devices on doors. Put about 24 inches of smooth sheet metal around the bottom of corncribs and another 8 inches of hardware cloth above that.

Protecting Farm Animals From Dangerous Diseases

Many diseases, such as tuberculosis and contagious abortion, are caused by invisible microbes or germs which may be transmitted from one animal to another. Some diseases are due to animal parasites, such as round worms, tapeworms, lice, fleas and coccidia. Others are deficiency diseases, which develop when some of the essential substances such as minerals, or vitamins, are absent in the ration. Even though no actual deficiency disease may arise, an animal lacking these substances may become so poor in health that it will be susceptible to other types of disease.

Among preventive measures, suitable buildings, good ventilation, and sanitary surroundings are important in maintaining health. In districts where mineral or vitamin deficiencies are known to exist, special rations should be provided to avoid or overcome nutritional disease. If an infectious disease occurs, the suggested methods of control should be followed to limit and guard against the spread of infection through the herd or flock. Perhaps the most important preventive measure is to avoid the introduction on healthy premises of animals from infected sources, or from herds or flocks whose health is unknown or uncertain.

SHIELD YOUR TREES WHEN APPLE SCAB SPORES ARE ACTIVE

Niagara
Kolospray

KOLOSpray contains a high percentage of sulphur which spreads and adheres thoroughly. This sulphur is microfine, and is processed with fused bentonite-sulphur. This combination prevents caustic reaction on the foliage. From delayed dormant through the most of the

growing season your trees must be kept under a shield of sulphur, to keep apple scab from lodging on fruit and foliage.

KOLOSpray is especially adapted to meet the fruit-growing conditions in the Province of Quebec. The finest apples grown in Canada are those having the benefit of KOLO protection against damage by apple scab.

NIAGARA gives practical personal assistance to commercial fruit growers and vegetable growers. For this service consult your local Niagara Fieldman.

*Distributed in the Province of Quebec by
La Coopérative Fédérée de Québec*

NIAGARA BRAND SPRAY CO. LIMITED,
Burlington, Ont.

More Feed From Hay

Nine grass-legume mixtures tested at Ottawa for three years yielded 20,259 lbs. dry matter and 3,053 lbs. protein per acre when used as hay for two years and pasture for one year.

The same mixtures produced 12,942 pounds of dry matter and 2,277 pounds protein per acre when used as hay for one year and pasture for two years. A further decline in yield was shown when they were continuously as pasture for three years, the yield being only 10,065 lbs. dry matter and 1,986 lbs. protein.

The amount of herbage produced in the third year of the test after two years of hay was considerably higher than after pasturing for one or two years.

In these tests hay was cut twice a year, while the effect of grazing was reproduced by clipping the stand five times yearly.

Weeds die from Weeping

Weeds apparently wept themselves to death in an experiment at Michigan State College. The weeping was brought on by spraying with a mixture of 2,4-D and specially treated onion juice. The report of this work did not say whether onion juice had been tried by itself.

Coaxing More from the Dairy Herd

The successful dairy farmer is a close friend of his cows. They're actually glad of his presence in the barn, even when they aren't being fed. And they give the best results when all stable operations follow a regular daily routine.

by A. R. Ness

PROFITABLE milk production depends on many things. The number and productiveness of the cows in the herd, amount and quality of the home grown feed, the availability and price of purchased feed and the price received for the milk — all of these must be considered in deciding the practice to be followed on any farm or in any community. These factors are closely interrelated and are all subject to change, frequently placing the producer in a position of having to alter his plans.

Changing plans in this case is not as simple as the growing of suitable crops or the breeding of cows. In fact most of the planning for winter milk production must be done months — and sometimes years — in advance.

Winter milk production requires large quantities of home grown feed, particularly suitable roughage such



Contented cows are the best milkers

as legume hay, corn for silage or roots and straw for bedding. It requires a breeding and herd building program which provides fall or early winter freshening cows and heifers, so that this fodder can be marketed through the cows in the form of milk.

Fortunately, cows that have been on good pasture during their dry period usually freshen in a satisfactory

state of flesh. It is important to have a good milking cow start her year's work with a considerable amount of flesh or fat on her body. She is more likely to be able to withstand the strain of giving birth to her calf, and the heavy drain of milk production — particularly during the early part of her lactation. And this usually adds up to more profitable year's work. Having the cows in good condition at freshening time greatly facilitates both feeding and management during the winter or barn feeding period.

The successful dairy farmer is a close friend of his cows. He will think of and act for their comfort and cleanliness. He will have them in such a state of contentment that the cows will actually be glad of his presence in the barn, not only at feeding time but during milking and cleaning time as well. So often when entering a dairy barn, you find the cows frightened and nervous. Usually, although not in all cases, this condition indicates rough handling on the part of those working with the animals.

Most contentment comes when the cows are well fed and their barrels are distended and full. The cow is particularly designed to use large quantities of roughage; and greater quantities are consumed when the quality of the roughage is good. A dairy cow will eat as much as two and one-half pounds of hay per day for each 100 pounds of body weight. Where silage is available one pound of hay per day can be replaced by three pounds per day of silage. So a 1200 pound milking cow will consume — in the course of a 200 day winter feeding period — 3600 pounds of hay and 7200 pounds of silage.

These roughage feeds can and should be grown on the farm, as it is not economical to buy them. And when the soil can be made to produce them in quantity and quality, the winter milking cow is a grand avenue through which to market these products of the soil.

Roughages alone, however, are not sufficient if the cow is yielding large quantities of milk. They will not supply sufficient total nutrients or protein to meet requirements for maintenance and milk production. A suitable dairy mixture of grains and protein supplements will be required in amounts of from one-half ton to one and one-half tons, depending on the milk and fat production of the cow.

There are a number of thumb rules which indicate fairly satisfactorily the amount of meal to feed each cow, based upon her daily yield of milk and fat. One of these rules recommends feeding one pound of meal daily for each two and one-half pounds of milk produced in excess of 15 pounds of 4 percent milk — or, in the case of the cow yielding high test milk, one pound of meal daily for each 2 pounds of milk produced daily in excess of

10 pounds of 5 percent milk. As these rules of feeding indicate, each cow in the milking herd should be fed as an individual on the basis of her milking ability. For proper winter feeding and management of the herd, this individual attention is very necessary.

The requirements of such things as water and salt are seldom mentioned in discussion. Like the air we breathe, probably these are taken for granted. But the milking cow requires 4 to 5 pounds of water for each pound of milk produced; and the average milking cow will drink 12 to 15 gallons of water per day. In the case of salt, three-quarters of an ounce is required daily for each 100 pounds of body weight, with the addition of one-third of an ounce for each gallon of milk produced. A cow weighing 1,000 pounds and yielding 40 pounds of milk would, therefore, require 2.08 ounces of salt per day.

The careful operator of a dairy stable keeps his stable clean, and he keeps his cows clean. Everything should be provided by way of stable arrangement and stable facilities to make it possible to keep the cows clean with the least amount of labour. The udders should be clipped, also the heads, necks, along the back, and probably the thighs and hind quarters of the cows.

The clipping is best done as soon as possible after the cows are housed in the fall. There it will reveal the presence of body lice, early in the season, so that the cows can be treated before any damage is done; and it is surprising how much easier it will be to groom and keep the cow clean and at the same time produce a better quality of milk.

The act of milking the cows is probably the most critical and the most exacting of all stable operations. The milking should be done quietly, quickly and at regular hours, with the interval between milkings as equal in time as possible. Cows are great creatures of habit; and best results are obtained when all stable operations follow a definite and regular daily routine.

The most profitable milking herd is the herd that approximates a calf per cow per year. That means that each cow is milking ten months and resting two months of the year. It is a good thing to have complete and accurate records of such details as calving dates, irregularities at calving time, heat periods after calving and the approximate date to be bred again. Such a record will help to avoid loss of production time. Few herds are without at least some breeding difficulties; but with records of the peculiarities of each cow, losses through breeding troubles can be minimized and frequently forestalled.

It is not possible to remember from year to year the many incidents and at the time seemingly minor irregularities that occur in a breeding herd. In the course of a number of years, however, if these could be connected with any one individual or even family of breeding cows,

it might establish a hereditary weakness that should not be propagated. Furthermore, such insignificant happenings as calving a week or 10 days too early on the part of one or more cows, which can be readily detected from a good set of breeding records, can indicate the onset of further and more serious breeding troubles at a time when it might be forestalled. A simple but accurate breeding record of each cow in the herd, when constantly followed and studied, serves as the best and cheapest of animal insurance.

If the herd is purebred, all milking cows should be entered in Record of Performance, and each cow tested for milk and butterfat production annually. Possibly our present system of R.O.P. could be simplified if the whole herd had to be placed on test instead of only selected individuals.

In all breeding operations, dairymen are confronted with the need for breeding and growing of replacements that will produce at least as well as their dams. In this connection, the sires play a very prominent part; and it is only possible to know just how good a sire is when we have information on all of his progeny instead of a few of his best progeny.

In the case of a commercial or grade herd, the same principle holds; the milk should be weighed periodically and tested for butterfat once a month, in order to get a measure of the heritability for production. Then culling and selection can be done on a reasonably accurate basis.

Stepping Up Lumber Returns

Returns from timberlands can be tripled by following good woodlot practices, says C. W. I. Creighton, Nova Scotia Provincial Forester. Intelligent management of wooded areas and efficient cutting of timber would eliminate much of the present waste, and yields could be stepped up without overcutting. As an example of the prevalent wastage, Mr. Creighton says that in some areas almost half the volume of trees is being left in the woods, instead of hauling it out and putting it to use.

Some of Mr. Creighton's suggestions for improving yields are included in these four don't's:

1. Don't make your woodlands do double duty by using them for pasture, or undergrowth will be destroyed and young trees eaten off.

2. Don't cut the trees in your woodlot indiscriminately. Cut mature trees, only, so new growth will be coming along all the time.

3. Don't clear marginal and sub-marginal land for use as pasture or for grain fields. Much of this land won't give as good returns under pasture or grain as it would under good forest management.

4. Don't damage your remaining stand when removing mature timber. A little care when cutting will prevent loss of reproduction and growth.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

Pomological Society Makes New Plans

The "standing room only" sign was out at the winter meeting of the Quebec Pomological Society on February 12 and 13 as the members gathered in Montreal to vote on a proposal, put on the notice paper at the last annual meeting, to make a change in the organization of the Society. By a large majority, the delegates present voted to increase membership dues from the previous \$2.00 per year to \$5.00 for members growing less than 500 trees and to \$10.00 for members with more than 500 trees in their orchards.

This added revenue, plus the Government grant, will be used to help finance the appointment of a permanent, full-time secretary, whose responsibility it will be to keep in constant touch with all members of the Society, to organize study meetings and demonstrations, and generally look after all business that concerns the Society.

Competition from other provinces for the Quebec apple market is on the increase; a greatly enlarged apple advertising campaign is a prime necessity; relations between the growers and the consumers through the merchants must be improved; consumer preferences in the matter of varieties and packs must be studied. There is need for someone to act as liaison officer between the technical staff of the Department of Agriculture and the growers, so that the latter may benefit to the utmost from the services that the Government is anxious to provide. There is need for research in many branches of fruit growing, and the Pomological Society should study and advise on this problem so as to get research started; though not necessarily conducting the work itself.

All these and many other problems must be studied and solved, and the job is too big to be handled by anyone unless he can give his full time to it. Hence the decision to appoint someone with the particular and somewhat unique combination of qualities needed to accomplish the task successfully.

Reporting on the 1947 crop, the Marketing Committee reminded the members that the crop was low in yield, and also low in quality. A half crop of early varieties sold at good prices, and many growers anticipated the same high prices for the later varieties, forgetting that there was a large surplus that could not be got rid of on the export markets. High prices asked for McIntosh turned buyers from the local apples to those from British Columbia, which were offered at considerably lower prices.

The meeting passed a resolution asking the Provincial Government to establish a Fruit Marketing Board which,

they hoped, would be able to improve the distribution and movement of produce and arrange for orderly marketing. The Government was also asked to arrange to re-establish the provision for inspection of orchards and crops for freedom from apple maggot so that the export certificates required by importing countries might be obtained. It was pointed out that orchards can be certified only if they are clean, and if there are no infested trees, and no wild host plants within at least 300 yards of any portion of the orchard to be certified.

It was also decided to ask the Government to require compulsory grading of all apples sold by revising the present regulations, and to add a category to include apples for processing.

The members heard a report on last year's advertising campaign, for which \$2,000 had been provided in the budget. Most of the money was used by the agency on radio publicity in both languages during harvest season, and on newspaper advertisements which, naturally, had to be kept small on account of the small amount of money available. The agency plans for the 1948 campaign include the use of radio and newspapers again, street car cards, posters, material prepared for display in stores, etc. A short but intensive campaign is planned.

At the dinner held on the 12th, Mayor Houde welcomed the delegates on behalf of the City of Montreal, and as usual kept his audience in good humour with his witty remarks. J. H. Lavoie, Provincial Horticulturist, was the principal speaker. The second day of the meeting was devoted to the reading of technical papers and to the election of officers.

Lucien Fontaine was elected president to succeed Roswell Thomson, and Floyd Stevenson came in as vice-president. New directors elected were Messrs. M. Hudon, O. Pelletier, W. J. Tawse, J. E. Duchesne and N. C. Standish. Mrs. Jules Simard, Father Fernand and Messrs. M. G. Beaudin, N. Morin, J. N. Petit, G. A. Baillargeon, H. Laberge, Chas. Petch and J. M. Gillepsie were re-elected.

Putting First Things First

Department of Agriculture officials agree with farmers that land drainage is of prime importance on any farm, and the season of 1947 saw a tremendous amount of work accomplished in this line. The Department's 29 mechanical shovels, 20 tractors, 4 scrapers, 8 compressors, 1 "carry-all" and the traction ditching machine were kept

busy all summer, but even this equipment was not sufficient to do all the work that needed doing, and a large number of jobs were entrusted to outside contractors.

During the summer of 1947, 819,000 running feet (155 miles) of drainage ditches were dug, which involved the excavation of 1,296,747 cubic yards of earth. Spreading of the excavated material was carried out along the watercourses and a total of 800,000 cubic yards of this material was spread.

At the same time, private contractors excavated 1,400,000 cubic yards of earth in the digging of 482,546 feet of drainage ditches, or about 92 miles. Debris was spread along 207,065 feet, which involved the spreading of 815,000 cubic yard of earth.

The traction ditching machine was sent to the farm of any man whose land needed draining, and dug 12,555 feet of trench during the summer; under the supervision of the technical staff of the Department, 25,880 feet of tile drains were laid. In additions to this, the technicians made drainage surveys on 71 farms and when these plans are put into effect, 963,000 feet more of tile will have been laid, giving proper drainage to some 2,000 acres of farmland.

As well as being used to spread the soil taken out of the watercourses, the Department's tractors were used in a farm improvement programme which resulted in work being done on 3,500 acres during a total of 12,591 working hours. In addition, arrangements were made to hire tractors owned by private individuals, and these tractors worked over 55,000 acres during 70,195 working hours. So, as a result, on nearly 60,000 acres of farm land, in almost every county in Quebec, land has been levelled, stone piles buried, brush removed, and the land improved generally.

All this work is planned and supervised by the technical staff of the Department, and these men are also available to give advice to farmers as to how they should go about improving their own secondary drainage ditches. They are ready with advice for municipal corporations where help is needed in preparing legislation concerning drainage work. They give talks and demonstrations, mainly at the agricultural schools, so that the younger generation of farmers will have a just appreciation of the importance of proper drainage when they come to the time when they are running farms of their own according to their own ideas.

During the year 1947, farmers' sons to the number of 1281 established themselves on their own farms, and some 4,000 acres of new land have been added to the total of cultivated land in this province.

Hogs Go To Market Too Soon

The Minister of Agriculture is making a special appeal to hog raisers to do something about the large number of hogs that are going to market too light. In his own words, "Farmers should remember that they cannot hope

to keep their market for hogs if they persist in offering hogs of a kind the market does not want. Abattoirs are receiving large numbers of hogs for slaughter which have not been fed to the proper weights. Local markets cannot absorb all the light-weight hogs that are coming forward and the packing plants will not accept them.

"There is no place on the export market for light-weights. The final result is a ruinous reduction in prices paid the farmer. I ask all farmers, in their own interests, not to sell their hogs until they have reached the proper weight and have been properly finished."

For specific examples, consider the prices on the Montreal market one day last month. On that day grade A prices were \$28.50 plus \$2.00 bonus, and B1 brought \$28.10 plus \$1.00. "Lights" brought \$22.00 or less per 100 pounds.

With such a spread, one would think that farmers would hold their hogs until they were at the weight to command the higher prices. But such is apparently not the case. During the week which saw the above prices quoted, about one quarter of all the hogs received were too light, and had to be sent back to the farm for further fattening. As the market authorities said at the time "It seems very strange that so many are in such a hurry to send their hogs to market at anywhere from 125 to 175 pounds, when it is all to their advantage to hold them until they can be sold for the higher prices commanded by Grade A's."

Canadian Breeders Elect New Officers

Alex. Fournier will be president of the Canadian Cattle Breeders' Association for the coming year, with N. Sansoucy his vice-president. Directors elected at the annual meeting last month were Messrs. J. H. Leblanc, M. Bernier, J. Laliberte, A. G. Beauregard, G. Hill, D. Roy, Ph. Garneau, J. E. Belzile and L. Girardin. Marc Leclerc remains as secretary-treasurer.

During the well-attended meeting a number of prizes and trophies were awarded to breeders of outstanding merit, as part of the contest organized to promote better methods of herd management and breeding. Messrs. A. Nichols, C. Sansoucy, A. Bousquet, J. D. Lemoyne, A. Beauregard, J. L. Picard, G. Rodier, R. Rodier, R. Lafleur and C. H. Beauregard divided \$100 in prize-money.

Special awards were made to owners of cows whose records of milk and of butterfat production were more than one-third greater than the minimum required for inclusion in the R.O.P. These awards went to Messrs. Leo Duquet, A. Precourt, the Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Farm School and the St. Charles Hospital Farm.

The secretary's report showed that the two principal objectives that had been set for the 1947 operations, namely herd classification and an increase in the number of cows on R.O.P. had been reached, and the progress made was considerably greater than had been hoped for. An increased membership was also reported.



CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING

A page of interest to members of farmer's co-operatives

Cooperative Federee Has Successful Year

A total business of nearly \$42 million with savings of \$465,394 to be returned to the farmers through their local co-operatives was reported at the 26th annual meeting of the Co-operative Federee de Quebec (the co-operative's Co-operative). The savings were nearly double that of 1946.

1,000 farmers gathered to hear J. A. Pinsonneault, President of the Federee, present the report. 446 local co-operatives representing 45,000 farmers who buy farm supplies or sell farm products co-operatively, were represented at the meeting.

The balance sheet showed total assets of \$7,110,452, with current assets of \$5,289,337. A reserve for income taxes of \$29,635 was provided before declaring the \$465,394 patronage refund.

During the afternoon separate sessions were held in each language. The English speaking members heard W. G. Loveless, executive secretary, Vermont Co-operative Council, Inc., tell of the co-operative efforts in Vermont.

Aim of Co-operatives in Vermont

"Our aim is to make Vermont the Denmark of America" said Mr. Loveless. "We are a small state with more dairy cattle than people and have to buy most of our grain supplies. The farmers in our state belong, on an average, to 2½ co-operatives each, which is second only to the farmers in the State of Wisconsin. We are faced with three alternatives: to accept the trend of large co-operations owning the farms, or have state subsidized or owned farms, or by co-operating in our efforts to maintain the family farm.

"The Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc. is a federation of co-operatives in the State. By co-ordinating our activities and carrying on an educational program for the members and general public we hope to maintain the American family owned farm."

Mr. Loveless told of a study of communities with the large farms with managers, and each farm numbered. The kind of schools, churches, service clubs, standard of social living were a pretty poor comparison to the community with family owned farms.

"A co-operative is just a department of the local farm that makes it possible to compete successfully with corporation farms or State owned farms", said Mr. Loveless. "We had destructive competition in the marketing

of milk. The Cooperative Council has done away with this and now the price is set by using a method which takes into consideration the price of grain, labor costs, and an index of purchases in department stores. We have no distinction between producer and consumer co-operatives and everyone gets along well."

When describing the work of the Council in the educational field, Mr. Loveless emphasized "We teach by doing".

Speaking to the English speaking session, president J. A. Pinsonneault said "We are organized to serve farmers. It doesn't matter what language they speak. The patronage refund is money the farmer would not receive from other methods of doing business."

Mr. Leo Caron explained the feed services offered by the Co-operative Federee. The ten grinders produce 1,000 bags of feed per hour and six mixers are able to mix ten cars of feed per day. 100 local co-operative mills use only co-operative concentrates which are prepared with the latest formulae recommended by experts at Macdonald College.

Two unexpected guests at the meeting were Mr. H. H. Hannam, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and Mr. A. B. MacDonald, Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada. Both spoke briefly to the meeting before it was organized into small discussion groups to deal with co-operative problems. The general discussion following the group reports brought out a variety of problems. Some of the problems were dealt with by members present who had experience with the particular problem. Requests for more information on Co-operative Car Insurance were turned over to the Quebec Council of Farm Forums.

Hannam Addresses Banquet Crowd

Speaking at the banquet, H. H. Hannam said, "Farmers can make a success of any size of enterprise if they wish. Co-operatives offer a better solution to many Canadian problems than many people realize. 400,000 organized Canadian farmers now speak with one voice and Canada listens to it. Last fall farmers had to take their biggest squeeze when the price control was removed on feed grain. The farmers spoke so emphatically that Agricultural Minister, Hon. J. G. Gardiner was authorized by the government to promise a return to the previous position before the British contracts were

made. As the farmers also asked to have this price relationship continue, the government has now introduced a bill to put coarse grains under the Wheat Board."

Mr. Joseph Folliet, Secretary, Les Semaines Sociales de France, and Mr. Edouard Montpetit, Secretary, of the University of Montreal were the other banquet speakers. The program the next day was devoted to discussions on various co-operative activities and resolutions.

A meeting of the Quebec Council of Farm Forums was also held February 20. Plans were made for the annual meeting and Farm Day at Macdonald College, June 19.

Sure Road to Self Help

In a conversation at one of the district meetings, the manager of a cooperative remarked that his local banker had said to him something like this: Don't get excited over this talk about all of the farmers rolling in wealth. In this community, 20% of the farmers own 80% of all the farm deposits.

This means by simple arithmetic that 80% of the farmers in that community own only 20% of the farm deposits in the bank. This is a fact of the greatest importance to the cooperatives.

Cooperation is people working together to help each other. The eight out of 10 farmers who have only 20% of the bank deposits obviously are the ones who need help most. If cooperatives are to be of the broadest service to farm people, therefore, it is urgent that these eight out of 10 farmers, if they are not already in, be brought into the membership.

Now the 80% of the farmers who have only 20% of the bank deposits may not do much in the way of investing to help finance new co-op facilities. But as members and patrons they can swell the volume of co-op business and thus help everybody, including themselves.

The 20% of the farmers who own most of the bank accounts, on the other hand, can help the other 80% and themselves as well by investing their surplus money for the purpose of financing new co-op factories and other facilities.

Thus, in cooperation, those who have more and those who have less can help each other.

Stagnant Pools Menace Livestock

Stagnant pools, left from heavy rains and high water, are excellent breeding places for disease. They should be drained or filled in to protect livestock and poultry.

There is some possibility that infectious bacteria may have been flooded in during high water periods. Such disease bearing bacteria, while they can't survive direct sunlight, will live in shallow, stagnant pools.

MARKET COMMENTS

Last month it was stated in this column that livestock and meat prices were in turmoil. As this is being written prices are somewhat jittery for a somewhat different reason. The decline in grain prices of the latter part of January and the first part of February in the United States raised the question of this being the first sign that the peak of inflation was past. The decline of U.S. livestock prices in the second week of February brought their level more in line with Canadian prices. Hog prices are now about the same, allowing for the difference between prices being quoted dressed in Canada and live weight in the United States.

Reasons given for the decline in retail prices of meats include consumer resistance. This is a potent influence on price. Wholesale prices depend on what consumers are willing and able to pay for anything.

Crop prospects for winter wheat have recently improved in many parts of the world including the Southern hemisphere, Europe and the United States. The consensus of opinion seems to be that the recent price of \$3.00 and over for wheat may now be a record of the past.

An international agreement on wheat prices is now being discussed by representatives of a number of countries at Washington. No final report is yet available but prices between a low of \$1.20 and a high of \$2.00 per bushel are being negotiated by countries representing both export and import positions.

Trend of Prices

	1947 Feb. \$	1948 Jan. \$	1948 Feb. \$
LIVESTOCK:			
Steers, good, per cwt.	13.60	15.40	15.55
Cows, good per cwt.	10.60	11.65	11.55
Cows, common, per cwt.	8.60	8.90	8.80
Canners, and cutters, per cwt.	7.78	6.95	7.40
Veal, good, per cwt.	16.50	21.35	22.65
Veal, common, per cwt.	14.73	18.65	20.40
Lambs, good, per cwt.	15.00		16.00
Lambs, common, per cwt.	10.20	12.25	11.20
Bacon Hogs, B.1 dressed per cwt.	21.85	28.40	28.10
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:			
Butter, per lb.	0.42	0.67	0.67
Cheese, per lb.	0.23	0.31	0.36
Eggs, Grade A large, per doz.	0.36	0.44	0.43
Chickens, live, 5 lbs. plus, per lb.	0.28	0.31	0.29
Chickens, dressed, milk fed A. per lb.	0.35	0.39	0.40
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES:			
Apples, B.C. McIntosh per box	3.90-4.00	4.00	3.00-3.75
Potatoes, Quebec, No. 1, per 75 lb. bag	1.15-1.25	2.15-2.25	2.10-2.15
FEED:			
Bran, per ton	29.00	48.00-51.25	49.75-50.75
Barley meal, per ton		66.80-68.00	64.75-68.00
Oat chop, per ton		66.00-66.60	63.75-67.00
Oil meal, per ton		75.00	73.00

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COSTLY BREEDING LOSSES A THING OF THE PAST—



Rex Wheat Germ Oil is successful in overcoming costly breeding failures. Rex Oil contains biochemical reproductive factors in a concentrated, non-deteriorating form which correct and prevent many non-organic breeding troubles. It is guaranteed potent and will not deteriorate.

REX OIL IS EASY TO USE
Rex Oil requires no scientific knowledge, no troublesome preparation — no special instruments. It is a dietary supplement which you simply add to the animal's present rations. It is economical. Order a bottle today from your feed dealer or write direct.

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R-82

"The man who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after."—Newton Baker

Precautions to be Taken in Dipping Sheep

A correspondent forwards the following rules:

1. Fast sheep several hours before shipping.
2. Don't dip sheep immediately on arrival at the bath if they have been driven a long distance. Let them have a rest to cool down.
3. Don't dip sheep in an arsenical dip if they have open wounds.
4. Don't put sheep in a bath head first.
5. Endeavour to dip on a cool, fine day.
6. Prepare the bath strictly in accordance with the instructions on the package, and don't guess quantities of dip or water.
7. Mix the dip thoroughly in the proper proportions before adding to the water in the bath, and well stir the mixture.
8. Let sheep drip for at least an hour before allowing access to herbage.
9. Before second dipping clean the bath right out, and make up fresh dip half the strength of the first dip.
10. Thorough mixing is very important, as it has been the experience in many cases where loss has occurred that those sheep which entered the bath first have died. This seems to indicate lack of thorough mixing.
11. In nearly all cases of loss where samples of the dip have been taken the dip has been found too strong on analysis.

Only Sixth of Farms Have Hydro

Only 16.1 percent of Canadian farms are served with electricity. The percentage varies from a high of 35 percent in Ontario to a low of 0.21 percent in Saskatchewan. Ontario consumes 79.75 percent of the power used on Canadian farms. These figures, states the *Agricultural Institute Review*, indicate that there is great scope for further development and application of electric power to Canadian farms.

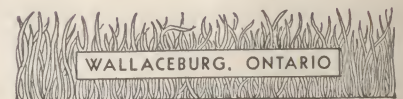
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Indian Plowman Represents Canada

A 20-year old Cayuga Indian boy, John Capton, from the Six Nations' reservation near Brantford, is one of the team of Ontario Farmers which represented Canada at the International Plowing Match held at Saint Field, County Down, Northern Ireland on February 11.

In addition to Capton, who is a Salada Tea horse plowman of last year's International match at Kingston, Ontario, the party included Glen McFaddin of Millbank and Russell Hare of Nanticoke, Esso Tractor Champions, Alfred Brunton of Tara, also a Salada Tea Champion, and W. L. Clark of Gormley, President of the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

Farmers are too much like sheep for their own good. They may laugh at the sheep but they are just as easily stampeded. Last spring the race was to see who could acquire the most pigs in the least time. Then, in the fall it was to see who could get rid of breeding stock the quickest. Now, in spite of the fact that we have a contract for a fair amount of bacon at a set price, the tendency is to ship as many hogs as possible before the price drops. The sad part of this is that it is liable to bring an unnecessary drop in price just because of the rush. Too many poor quality hogs are going in. They are rushed in too light and are not fit for export, yet home consumption cannot handle them all at a high price (especially when the consumers would prefer good stuff). If they were properly fed to the right weight, they would go to market in a more orderly fashion and would be good for something when they got there. Those most apt to condemn rail-grading are the ones who insist on producing the type of hog which the market does not want. However, there seems to be a tendency for excessive shrinkage on hogs sold on a rail-grade basis. It may require organization to ship co-operatively again to uncover the reason for this.

And a Soil Balance Sheet might uncover the reason why your land does not produce so well as it once did. This is a calculation of the amount of fertility taken from the soil per year by crops, erosion and leaching and of the amount returned to it by manure and fertilizer. C. M. Long, who operates a 'Farm Clinic' in the United States, surveyed a large area in this way. He found 75,000 acres running behind (being mined instead of farmed) and 2,000 acres where fertility was gaining. This looks like a poor way to improve the diet of the world's increasing population. But what happens when we balance the fertility budget? One 320 acre farm

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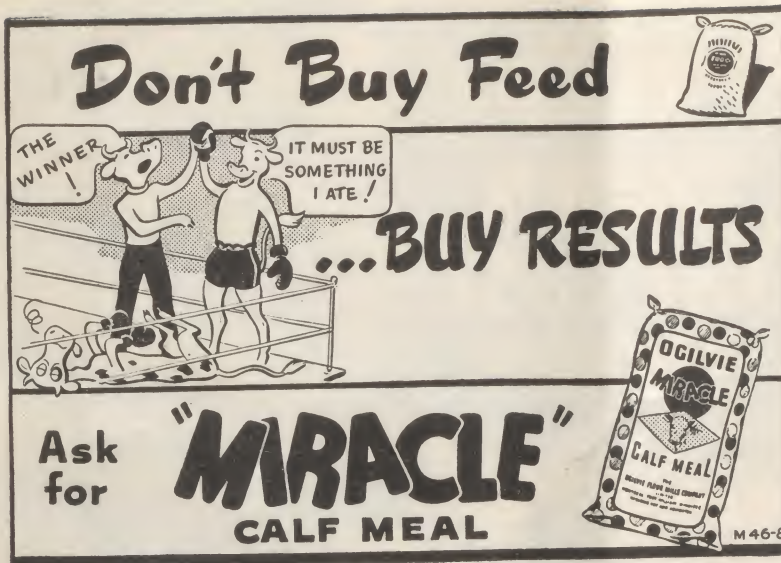
That is why we recommend MARVELUBE Motor Oil. It is recognized as Canada's leading motor oil—used in more farm machines and motor cars than any other oil you can buy.

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was losing 10,000 lbs. of nitrogen, 5,000 lbs. of phosphate and 6,000 lbs. of potash per year. When this was changed to a slight plus, corn yields doubled, wheat and soybeans went up a quarter and clover made as high as 500 lbs. of beef per acre. And when we consider that 98% of the total weight of a crop comes from air and moisture, it should pay to supply the necessary 2% of soil minerals to make it do its best.

Of course steps should be taken to check the erosion loss instead of merely accepting it as a necessary evil and making it up. This loss was recognized by some farmers long before it was receiving much publicity. As early as 1890 one old farmer was asked which was the most fertile part of his farm. His reply was 'the part which went down the river'. So a little thought along these lines followed by action, might enable us to do our part to meet consumer demands for more food and cheaper food. And we must remember that as the world population increases, the percentage of it engaged in agriculture tends to decrease. So while we enjoy a larger market, the volume of consumer demand for cheaper food will more and more out-weigh the producer demand for higher prices. Thus we must discharge our responsibility to keep down production costs well and take steps to educate the consumer as to

these costs. At present, consumers seem to resent an increase in the price of food much more than they would a proportionate increase in the cost of something they needed less and wanted more. For example, look at the howl put up over the increased price of butter which amounts to less than the cost of a cigarette per person per day. Yet who would feel that they couldn't possibly afford another cigarette?*

The Federation of Agriculture made one request which was not worthy to come from the voice of the 'backbone of the country'. This was when they asked for a pension for everyone at sixty-five whether it was needed or not. When the national backbone weakens to such an extent, there must be a mineral deficiency somewhere which needs correction or the country will be in a bad way. A so-called joke appeared in print to the effect that the average man now lived thirty years longer than he could a while ago because he had to pay his taxes. But when we pause to reflect that a large part of those taxes will go to provide him a pension for the thirty extra years he lives, the joke isn't so funny. With a pension paid up until sixteen and from sixty-five on there would still be a third of those between sixteen and sixty-five living off the rest of us (that is, working for the government) so that would put a pretty heavy

burden on the few productive members of the population. In fact it would be so heavy they would not be able to carry it until they were sixty-five but would need a pension ten years sooner. So how about everyone putting up a big holler for the right to support themselves and acquire enough to provide for old age? It can still be done.

U.S. Farmers Prosper

Crop production near the wartime peak and livestock production only moderately below that level in combination with prices some 20 percent above those of the previous year, gave the farmers of the U.S. unexampled prosperity in 1947, says Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, in his annual report. Under ordinary peace-time conditions, the report says, the agricultural situation that prevailed during the year would have been as favorable as any on record. Cash receipts from farm marketings, the highest on record, amounted to nearly 30 billion dollars.

Farmers' assets in land, buildings, livestock, equipment, and savings were at the highest level on record; and the equity of farm operators in the agricultural plant or the value of assets not offset by debts was up 113% from 1940. Farm Debt, though slightly greater than in 1946, was relatively low. Nevertheless, the farmers, Secretary Anderson declares, could not take a wholly optimistic view of their position because the export demand of the years immediately ahead will depend so largely upon American financing.

Secretary Anderson says that because agriculture abroad will eventually recover from the damage inflicted on it by the war, farmers need assurance, not yet available, of permanently high domestic employment along with a large commercially financed export trade. Secretary Anderson says agriculture can have these necessities only through a national economic policy that will maintain abundance in every phase of economic life.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

Jottings from the Semi-Annual

Discussions, reports and addresses by prominent speakers, formed a varied programme at the semi-annual meeting of the Provincial Board of the Quebec Women's Institutes, held recently at Macdonald College.

At this gathering, which was chaired by the president, Mrs. C. E. Conley, a matter of special interest on the agenda was a short course in leadership training offered by Macdonald College to Institute members. This will be held in May and a most worthwhile programme is being drawn up by a committee headed by the convenor of Education, Mrs. A. Coates, in co-operation with the College staff. Handicrafts are to be stressed and if it is well supported it is hoped to make this an annual event.

Mrs. Smallman's report of the Amsterdam conference was a highlight of the meeting. This has appeared in this magazine, thus giving all members an opportunity of reading her concise and comprehensive account of that important event. Mrs. Smallman also stated that Lady Nuthall, of the Westcott W. I., England, was appointed as our representative on the A.C.W.W.

An always welcome visitor, Mde. P. C. LeBeau, attended the meeting and brought greetings from the Dept. of Agriculture, Quebec. She spoke of the work of the 4-H Clubs and suggested several ways in which they might work in co-operation with the Junior Institutes. Mrs. G. McGibbon, Junior Supervisor, was asked to explore these possibilities.

One of the speakers was Dr. Margaret McCready, chairman of the Quebec Branch of the Canadian Association of Consumers. She urged greater study of our economic problems so that both rural and urban housewives might work together intelligently.

Mr. Simpson, of the St. John Ambulance Association, was also present at one of the sessions and spoke of the work they were doing in giving courses in First Aid, Home Nursing, Child Welfare and Hygiene. All branches of the Q.W.I. are to be contacted and where study groups of 20 to 25 can be organized, instruction in any of these subjects will be given free of charge. They will go anywhere in the province and classes are held in either language.

The work of Save the Children Fund was discussed by Mrs. John Gallery, of the Montreal Office of that organization. She asked the Institute to support the

drive launched by the United Nations, and asked a resolution be forwarded that all materials collected at that time be sent to workers already in the field for distribution.

The contest sponsored by the Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation was mentioned and Mrs. V. Hurley, convenor of Home Economics, was asked to write for information. Farm housewives have many constructive ideas to offer and it was thought members of the Q.W.I. might enjoy taking part in such a contest.

The report of the treasurer, Mrs. G. D. Harvey, showed the Q.W.I. Service Fund had been well supported. 20 life memberships had been given this past year and in this connection Mrs. Harvey asked that when ordering these all necessary information should be sent in as early as possible to avoid delay.

Another report always heard with keen interest is that of the secretary, Miss Evelyn Walker. Increased interest in the pamphlet loan library was noted and the English gift books are in constant circulation. The number of branches in the province has now reached 100 with the formation of a group at Ste. Anne's. 112 Personal Parcels are being sent every month and addresses of Institutes in Great Britain are being obtained for those who would like to send them parcels also.

Brief remarks from the various convenors, the only one unable to be present, Mrs. H. H. Mortimer of National and International Relations, sending hers by letter, brought a busy and successful meeting to a close.



Sheffield County W.I. had a display of heirlooms at their meeting and prizes were given for the best costumes. The striped dress in front row, worn by Mrs. H. Ashton, won first prize. It is over 100 years old and the carpet bag she is carrying was brought from Ireland "many long years ago."

The Month With the W.I.

Yes, we now have 100 branches, but the increase in number of Personal Parcels sent each month has grown just a bit more rapidly. 112, said Miss Walker's report at the Board meeting, and some of these are the full 20 pounds too. As an example of the real interest taken here is one branch (Granby Hill) sending a very special birthday box to their "old lady"; another (Sandy Beach) making an afghan for their elderly friend; again, a measuring cup and spoons included (Lachute), Everyone taking great care to send just what is most wanted. Cavagnal, in addition to their own two boxes monthly, gave \$25 to assist the surrounding district with theirs (Hudson, Como and Hudson Hts.) The new branch in the same county, Vaudreuil-Dorion, has already sent their fourth parcel. In addition a few branches are also sending to Institutes in England (See Scotstown, New Richmond and Way's Mills). Other branches wishing such contacts may obtain addresses by writing Miss Walker. No wonder the reports every month from all branches mention letters of appreciation from their friends overseas.

Argenteuil: Arundel had a practical lesson on making a winter coat given by one of the members. Brownsburg planned a contest around the work of the W.I. for the past 50 years. A prize was given the winner. Frontier also held a contest with prizes, "Who's Who in Nursery Rhymes". Fair work was discussed and a paper read on the life of Mrs. Hoodless. Jerusalem-Bethany records donations of \$5 each to soup fund for the school, Q.W.I. Service-Fund and Salvation Army.

Lachute had a spirited debate, "Resolved that the Housewife of 100 years ago had an easier life than the Housewife of Today". And, what do you know, the affirmative won! The Can. Association of Consumers was discussed. Lakefield reports the loss of a valued member. Fair work was discussed and hints on how to brighten your kitchen. Morin Heights is enjoying a collection of English gift books. "Women's Institutes in South Africa" was the topic on the programme. Pioneer heard an address on China by Mr. Royal of the High School staff. A cookie contest was held. Upper Lachute and East End gave \$10 to the school soup fund and are making a quilt.

Brome: Austin raised funds by a card party. "Thank yous" from the many remembered by this branch were received. Abercorn is furnishing hot lunches in their school and again we find acknowledgments for sunshine spread by this branch.

Bonaventure: New Richmond received a beautiful calendar from their friends of the Chillworth, W.I. Eng. This branch is planning to exhibit handicrafts at MacDonald College, and bulletins on "Keeping Clothes Wearable" were distributed. Restigouche presented the mother of twins with a pair of blankets and four pair of baby



Gatineau Co. W.I. Mrs. H. Ellard, the County President, is third from left in front. (Can you see her smile?)

stockings. Shigawake is remembering the children of their community and is doing faithful work on their Personal Parcels.

Compton: Brookbury has unveiled a plaque in memory of two local boys who died as POW's at Hong-Kong. \$5 each was given two veterans as a wedding gift and \$2 to the Salvation Army. Canterbury reports a gift of \$30 to Child Welfare. Cookshire had a shower for their Jr. Red Cross which resulted in a large box of children's clothing. East Clifton paid their second installment on the County Hospital project. Donations towards their pastor's salary and the Sunday School are also recorded. Scotstown is one of the branches sending a parcel to an English W.I. as well as their own "old lady". 7 quarts of milk are served daily to pupils in grades 1, 2 and 3. Their library, which is a W.I. project, now contains 3000 books besides those for the pre-school child. 4044 books were circulated this past year.

Chat-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield staged a hand-icraft exhibit. Current events by all convenors and several readings, some humorous, made a varied programme. Dundee is another branch where all the convenors make a contribution to the programme, a splendid idea for the rest of us. \$5 to the Friendly Home, a similar amount to the local Student's Council and a discussion "What do you think of Reciprocity?" are also noted. Franklin Centre presented blankets to two new babies and held a card party to raise funds for their overseas parcels. Hemmingford entertained their teachers and discussed problems connected with the school. A demonstration, "How to make a Bed Rest" and a book review were other features of their meeting. Ormstown "The World and how we look at it", was the subject of an address by Mr. D. Munroe, principal of the school.

Gaspe: L'anse aux Cousins combined their winter meetings and planned a suitable programme. Sandy Beach has two members in the C.A.C. A quilt was presented the county president, Mrs. Miller, who lost her home by fire recently. Mrs. Miller is a member of this



Delegates attending Stanstead County W.I. meeting held in North Hatley. The County President, Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, is second from left in front row.

branch. Wakeham has formed a Blue Cross group with 18 members. A gift of money was presented Mrs. Miller by this branch and mittens knit and sold to finance overseas parcels. York is using talent money to purchase a loom and here is a nice rollcall, "Name a good quality in your right hand neighbour."

Gatineau: Aylmer discussed the Blue Cross and the C.A.C. \$21 was voted the Q.W.I. Service Fund and a box of clothing sent to England for distribution there. Eardley sent a large shipment of clothing to Save the Children and \$5 to a boy suffering from polio. Kazabazua also sent clothing to Save the Children and is knitting garments to be shipped abroad. A birthday cake was a highlight of the 11th anniversary of this branch. Rupert netted \$52 from a supper to aid general funds. Dr. H. Geggie spoke on "Modern Treatment of TB" Wakefield has taken out one membership in the C.A.C. Over \$120 for Personal Parcels was realized from a play, \$31.50 from lunch served at meeting of Gatineau Co. Teachers Ass'n. and \$58 forwarded a military hospital at Quebec. Wright sent a carton of clothing and \$10 to Save the Children and \$7 was donated the local Legion.

Megantic: Inverness donated \$5 each to the Children's Memorial and the Salvation Army. One membership has been taken out in the C.A.C. and a gift presented a member who lost her home by fire.

Missisquoi: Fordyce also reports help to a member losing all by fire. Cards were collected and sent the Children's Memorial. St. Armand presented a book to the school library in memory of their president, Mrs. M. Kraus. Two gifts of money were received and a paper, "The Loving Cup", was read.

Pontiac: Beech Grove held a sale of home cooking and enjoyed a potato-peeling contest. Bristol Busy Bees gave \$25 to the County Hospital Fund. A skating party followed by a supper was most successful. Gifts were received from a woman in Scotland to whom a layette

had been sent. Clarendon staged a white bread contest and donations were handed in for the "Fancywork Box". Elmside had a series of talks on various household problems and distributed pamphlets bearing on these topics. Fort Coulonge entertained Dr. Robb who gave a talk on general health and also discussed the hospitalization plan. Shawville sent a box of clothing and \$25 to Save the Children Fund. Mrs. J. Pembroke, president of the Women's Voluntary Service, Montreal was a guest speaker. Quyon donated \$20 to the local Hockey Club. An organ recital by Dr. Hudson was a feature of this meeting. Wyman heard a talk on Scottish customs by a war bride. Items on various celebrities of the CBC were given by the members.

Richmond: The branch at Richmond Hill held a busy meeting with a most successful sale of remnants. Prizes were also given in a contest on embroidered aprons.

Shefford: Granby Hill has the happy custom of an annual get-together each winter of members and their families and friends. 125 attended the event this year. \$5 was sent the Children's Memorial. South Roxton discussed a letter from their county president and enjoyed a contest. Warden collected cards to send the Shriner's Hospital. A food sale and a paper on "Vitamins" are other items of their report.

Sherbrooke: Ascot is giving an annual scholarship of \$25 in the Lennoxville High School to a grade 11 pupil entering any college to train for teaching. This will be known as the Beatrice Cameron Memorial in memory of a valued member who served in many offices and as secretary for nearly 25 years. Brompton Road is giving \$25 to assist in teaching music in their school. \$15 was also voted the Q.W.I. Service Fund. Cherry River enrolled two new members and held the ever-popular form of recreation with all branches—a contest. Lennoxville, didn't we say contests were popular, here's another, this time on white and fancy breads. A talk on leather work was given with an exhibit of tools required and articles in the making. Milby, \$10 to the Q.W.I. Service



Members of the Richmond County W.I. gather at the home of Mrs. Ouelette, Secretary of the 8th. Federation. Les Cercles de Fermieres, for a friendly meeting with representatives of both organizations. The County President, Mrs. W. Beattie, is at the extreme left of front row. The little lady in the light dress standing near the centre is the hostess.



Pontiac Co. W.I. No sign of the County President here. Probably she is taking the picture. Yes, you have guessed — it's Miss Pritchard.

Fund, \$2 to the TB campaign, \$25 to a member whose husband met with a serious accident, and a party and gift for a bride, are all features of the report from this branch. Orford welcomed a new member and held a quiz on the Blue Cross. A "Birthday Book" has been inaugurated.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff is giving \$30 towards hot lunches in the school. A N.F.B. showing was sponsored. Beebe voted \$50 to support a European child for six months. A card party was held to assist the Memorial Park. Fitch Bay heard a paper followed by a discussion on "Benefits to be derived from a Home and School Association. Hatley, a paper "Value of Meat in the Diet", and favorite meat recipes contributed by the members formed the programme. Minton discussed the C.A.C. Stanstead North also discussed the same topic and took out a membership in that organization. Way's Mills is sponsoring hot lunches in their school again this winter. This branch is getting real enjoyment from their correspondence with Cross-in-Hand, W.I. in England.

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal, who said contest—this time darning socks, with a prize for the winner. The executive of the new branch at Vaudreuil-Dorion were welcome guests at this meeting. The latter branch has also had many visitors: the county president, Mrs. J. D. Smythe, Miss Evelyn Walker and Mrs. H. R. C. Avison who gave a talk followed by a discussion on "Child Psychology and Training." Funds were augmented by a "telephone" card party.

(How many contests are mentioned this month?)

Care of Woollen Blankets

by Marjorie E. Hurley

When warm weather arrives, we start stripping our beds of wollen blankets and storing them for the summer. Make certain they are as clean as can be before storing them. Nothing destroys the insulating qualities and long life of the material as quickly as dirt, which clogs the air cells of the fibre.

For best results in laundering blankets use plenty of soft water, never over 100 degrees, and wash only one

blanket at a time. If the water is hard, use a water softener before adding a mild soap. Once the soap is thoroughly dissolved and you have rich suds, immerse the blankets and run three minutes in a washing machine, or if you are washing them by hand, squeeze and douse them for about five minutes. Then repeat the operation in a second tub of suds. Incidentally, if the bindings of your blankets are badly soiled, use a soft brush to give them an extra bit of scrubbing.

After washing, squeeze—don't twist—the water out of the blankets. If you use a wringer be sure to loosen the tension of the rollers. Then rinse thoroughly in two or three clear waters of the same temperature, squeezing the water out after rinsing.

To dry, fold blankets lengthwise, hang with binding at the bottom and pull gently into shape. When partly dry reverse them on the line, and when completely dry use a clean whisk to raise the nap, brushing in one direction only—toward the binding. If you press the binding, avoid creasing the outer edge, or it will eventually split or fray. Wrap loosely and seal in a dust-proof container. Then wrap in heavy moothproof paper and put away in a cool, dry place. Avoid piling anything else on top of them so that the nap won't be flattened.

If you haven't done it in the past, make a habit of brushing your blankets between laundings. It will keep them cleaner, softer and, therefore, warmer.

Women on School Boards

Editor Macdonald College Journal

Dear Editor:

In the January issue the Rupert Farm Forum was reported as saying:

"We think it a good thing for women to serve on the school board, but in Quebec, married women cannot own property unless they have a marriage contract; therefore, only spinsters or widows can serve on the school board."

Any married women can own property with her husband's consent and signature.

I have served on the Ascot School Board for five years and am chairman at the present time and have no marriage contract, but have property registered in my name with my husband's consent.

Although Quebec laws do not give women much freedom we are fortunate in having many broad-minded men who value and appreciate women's point of view.

Perhaps this information will give more husbands the incentive to deed a small portion of their property to their wives, thus making them eligible to take office as school commissioners and perhaps some women could do a fine job on the Council.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Mrs. D. Helen McElrea.



LIVING AND LEARNING



Farm Forum "Guides"



Ruth I. McKenzie, Editor of "Farm Forum Guide" and Director of Research for National Farm Radio Forum.

"Read, Listen, Discuss, Act", is a slogan in National Farm Radio Forum. It suggests the four basic features of the Farm Forum program: (1) Printed study material; (2) Broadcasts on the discussion topics; (3) Group discussion; (4) Group action.

Each of these features serves its own particular purpose in Farm Forum. The broadcast focusses the attention of the groups on the the controver-

sial aspects of the topic. In so doing it stimulates discussion in the groups. Another, less obvious purpose served by the broadcast, is to set the time for the Farm Forum meeting and to encourage people to get there on time.

The broadcast also contributes information on the subject but this is not its main function. As everyone knows, a broadcast comes and goes very quickly—too quickly for the average person to retain much of what is said on it. For this reason factual material is supplied to Farm Forum groups in the form of a printed study bulletin — "Farm Forum Guide." The groups read the "Guide" before coming to the meeting, or they read it together at the meeting, as a basis for discussion.

Every effort is taken to make the study material in "Farm Forum Guide" reliable and unbiased. The research and writing is done by Miss Ruth I. McKenzie, Editor and Research Director for Farm Radio Forum. Miss McKenzie was formerly a research librarian. She receives considerable help in compiling the facts from university professors, government experts, and officials, and other specialists in the particular fields covered by the topics. Government reports and agricultural journals are, of course, leading sources of information.

The "Guide" also contains the discussion questions.

The same questions are discussed each Monday evening by all the Farm Forum groups in Canada. Great care goes into the preparation of the questions. They are always pre-tested, or tried out in advance, on three groups—one in Saskatchewan, one in Ontario, and one in Nova Scotia. The success of every Farm Forum meeting hinges on the discussion questions.

In addition to study material and the discussion questions, the "Guide" serves as a news bulletin for the Forums. Stories of action projects, summaries of Forum Findings, brief biographies of people connected with Farm Forum appear there regularly, as well as suggestions for supplementary reading, films and recreation.

Picture to yourself what happens at a Farm Forum meeting. Shortly before the broadcast hour the farm people gather at a neighbour's house. An air of excitement pervades the place. To-night they will discuss "Are Farmers Businessmen?" or some such topic. Everyone listens eagerly and silently to the broadcast. Then the



Farm leaders from Quebec at the Brockville meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture:

Front Row: (left to right) Gordon Shufelt, Pres. Q.C.F.F.; Dr. H. C. Bois, Pres., Cooperative Federee; Romeo Martin, Sec. Cooperative Federee; J. A. Marion, Pres., U.C.C.
Standing: (left to right) J. K. MacArthur, Chairman, Rouville-Shefford County Farm Forum Committee; Carl Corey, Chairman, Stanstead County Com.; H. A. Fowler, Chairman, Richmond Co. Com.; Neil Creller, Chairman, Missisquoi Co. Com.; J. D. Harrison, Chairman, Compton Co. Com.; Floyd Griesbach, Sec.-Treas. Q.C.F.F.; Miller K. Gibson, Chairman, Gatineau Co. Com.; Douglas R. Bradford, Chairman, Argenteuil Co. Com.; J. D. Lang, Chairman, Chateaugay-Huntingdon Co.

The Federation meeting was held in the Hotel Manitoona Jan. 26-30 with representatives from all provinces present. It was necessary to move to the theatre to accommodate the large number of farm people from Ontario and Quebec who came for the open sessions.

radio is turned off. Out of pockets and handbags comes "Farm Forum Guide". Everyone turns to page 3—where the discussion questions appear. The chairman takes charge of the meeting and the group gets off on its discussion. Afterwards the Forum Secretary sends a report of their conclusions to the Provincial Farm Forum office. The findings of all the groups are then summarized and reported in the Provincial Secretary's 5-minute broadcast the following Monday.

Sometimes the discussion suggests a course of action to the group. Hundreds of communities have developed community projects in this way from Farm Forum meetings — such as community centres, road improvement, co-operatives of all kinds, warble fly campaigns, to mention only a few.

"Read, listen, discuss, act," is more than just a slogan in Farm Forum. It is the gist of what actually happens.

What Farm Forums are Thinking

Aubrey Corners, Huntingdon Co:—"One dollar spent today to arrest communism will be much easier to pay than ten dollars next year to ship men and material to fight communism." *Sec.—Mr. Fred. J. Armstrong*

Upper Tullochgorum, Chateaugay Co:—"If we want peace we must see that everybody has enough to eat. Starving people are ready for war."

Sec.—Mr. Huntley Greig.

Austin, Pontiac Co:—"The lend lease Mutual Aid Programs can be made to ship war weapons, why cannot somewhat similar arrangements be made for food?"

Sec.—Mr. D. L. Davies

Elmside, Pontiac Co:—"Perhaps the Government could be persuaded that it would be better to use the thousands of dollars they are planning on using to beautify Ottawa to send relief to Europe!" *Sec.—Mrs. Sam McNeill*

Trout River, Huntingdon Co:—"The same ones who were able to supply ammunition in war time should be able to supply food now."

Sec.—Mrs. Garnet Goundrey

Cookshire, Compton Co:—"Certainly, the farmers should have the right to control the marketing of their own products. Implement manufacturers do not ask the farmers how theirs should be controlled, do they?"

Sec.—Mr. Donald Morrison

Bulwer, Compton Co:—"At the present time the farmer is the only producer who leaves his product for others to market under price conditions over which he exerts little or no control. Farmers certainly should have, through organization, control over the marketing of their own products." *Sec.—Mrs. Leslie Richardson*

Harrington, Argenteuil Co:—"We do not see how marketing schemes can be undemocratic if they are the

wish of the majority. In unions, members have to live up to rules." *Sec.—Mrs. C. L. Bennett*

Brookbury, Compton Co:—"We do not think a Marketing Act is undemocratic. Democracy is rule by the majority. We have laws about stealing. Is it undemocratic to punish thieves, though they do not agree with the law-abiding majority?" *Sec.—Mrs. Chas. H. Little*

Burroughs Falls, Stanstead Co:—"The B.N.A. Act was mentioned in the Farm Forum broadcast discussion. This Act is around 100 years old. Age may be a good recommendation in wine, but it is doubtful value for women and Acts of Parliament."

Sec.—Mr. N. W. Lobb

Libby Town, Stanstead Co:—"If a ceiling price is put on butter we want a ceiling price on feed, but not at the present high cost level. Why is not the miller compelled to take the "low" margin of profit that the farmer is forced to take?" *Sec.—Mrs. Alvin Smith*

Hallerton, Huntingdon Co:—"This Farm Forum couldn't have any modern conveniences as we have no electricity. To install gasoline driven equipment would be too expensive to operate, and not very satisfactory."

Sec.—Mrs. Walter Kyle

What Farm Forums Are Asking

Quebec Dairy Commission

Mabel, Argenteuil Co:—"What about the Quebec Dairy Commission? Doesn't it control the price of whole milk in Quebec?" *Sec.—Mrs. Douglas Clark*

ANS.

"The Quebec Dairy Commission controls the price of whole milk sold for the fluid milk trade—in all the important towns, cities and villages in Quebec."

P. D. McArthur, Howick

Warbly Fly Spray

Cookshire, Compton Co:—"Our group has been considering a warble fly campaign. We are informed that there is a new type of material which is a D.D.T. compound which will not only destroy the grubs, but also if used as a spray throughout the season will destroy the fly."

"Have you any published information on this or advice where it is available?"

Sec.—Mr. Donald Morrison.

ANS.

"I am sending along a copy of Dominion of Canada, Department of Agriculture Publication 604 on "Insects and Allied parasites injurious to livestock and poultry in Canada", in which I have marked the section on warble fly control, pp. 48 & 49. Depending on the severity of the infestation two or three dressings may be adequate. I should advise a commercial derris warble fly powder if the old fashioned method of application is used."

"The treatment described is very effective and the only recent advances in its use involve the application of the derris to the cattles' backs as a spray with an orchard sprayer, the gun (or broom of several nozzles) is fitted with a No. 5 disc and adjusted to give a spray circle with a diameter of 5 inches when the nozzle is held 18 inches above the back. The stock are run through chutes or small pens with a catwalk 4 feet above the ground for the operators. The spray is applied from withers to the tailhead, covering an area about ten inches wide on each side of the spine. Use a suspension of 10 to 15 lbs. of derris or cube powder (5% rotenone) in 100 gallons of water. Keep well agitated. In Montana they estimate the cost of materials at 4¢ per animal per spray. It would, of course be somewhat higher here.

"This method has had wide application in western ranching areas and in certain community efforts in Ontario. The Division of Entomology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, have a prepared colored film on "Warble Fly Control", which should be available through your film service. The film applies to western conditions chiefly and gives an excellent picture of the procedure and stresses the need for action. I can recommend it highly. Colored posters have been designed by Mr. Painter, in charge of this work at Lethbridge, Alberta, and should be available through

the office of Mr. H. Seamans, Chief, Field Crop and Garden Insect Investigations, Division of Entomology, Ottawa, as Mr. Seamans also heads up entomological work on health of animals.

"To the best of my knowledge DDT is of no value whatsoever for killing the grubs, and showed no promise in N.Y., B.C. or Montana when applied to the legs and undersides of the animals to kill egg laying adults. The egg laying flies do not remain on the animal long enough to get a lethal dose. Other new materials, such as BHC, are still untested and it would not be advisable to experiment in such a campaign as you plan, especially since derris is highly effective."

*Frank O. Morrison, Assistant Prof.
Department of Entomology.*

Irish Neighbourhood, Brome Co:—"One member would like a form for acquiring immigrant farm help."

Cec.—Mr. Peter Wells

ANS.

"I am enclosing an application form for farm help. Please advise if you would be interested in securing a farm family or single man from Holland as we expect a large number of Dutch farmers to come here this spring and summer." *E. J. Sauve, Colonization Dept.
CNR, Central Station, Montreal.*

First Aid for Group Leaders!

by Elizabeth Loosley

Mr. Smith is a pleasant young man, who likes boys. After his work in a small town office, he meets a group of youngsters in their early teens at the local community centre, shows them how to play games, takes them on hikes in the summer, and for skiing trips in the winter. At first, everything runs beautifully. Mr. Smith enjoyed the boys. They seemed pleased with the programme they had worked out for themselves with his help.

Then Walter joined the gang. Walter was a "tough" lad who had recently moved to the country town from a big city. From the very beginning, Mr. Smith did not warm to Walter! But the boys in his group did! The tone of the activities changed. Instead of the co-operation he had had, Mr. Smith found a subtle feeling of hostility among the boys, for which he, quite rightly, held Walter responsible.

Things went from bad to worse. The climax came when Mr. Smith one day discovered his clubroom wrecked! He knew very well what had happened; and who was to blame. But he also knew that the whole future of the group depended on the way he handled this situation.

What should he do? Disband the club? Punish the boys? Bar Walter from joining in any further activities, which would also draw away from the group the majority

which admired Walter? Try to discover and remedy whatever "kinks" in Walter made him behave as he did? No wonder Mr. Smith is at his wits' end!

This is the point at which to look for sound advice. A recent book "**So You Want to Help People**", by Rudolph M. Wittenberg, provides an answer to many of the baffling questions which confront all leaders working with groups of young people. Just as there are ways of working with communities (see last month's column!) there are ways of working with the individuals which together make up those communities. Dr. Wittenberg's clear, practical and readable book tells how work with individuals in groups may be carried on most effectively.

Dr. Wittenberg's book would be an excellent one for any leader or group of leaders to study and use in conjunction with the excellent series of films on human behaviour now under production by the National Film Board of Canada for the Department of Health and Welfare. The first of these is "**The Feeling of Rejection**" (23 minutes, bl. & sound).

Dr. Wittenberg's book may be bought from the Association Press (Y.M.C.A.) 347 Madison Ave., New York. It may also be borrowed from the Information Centre, Adult Education Service, Macdonald College.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

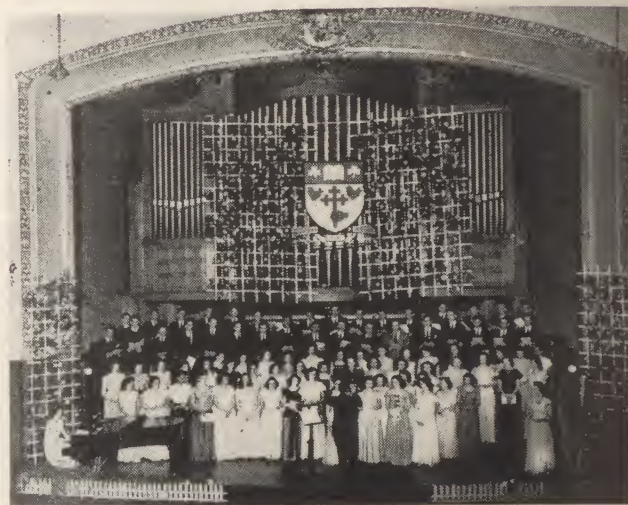
Governor General Delivers War Memorial Address

His Excellency, Field Marshall The Right Honourable The Viscount Alexander of Tunis, G.C.B., Governor General of Canada, was the guest of the College on February 26th and gave the second in the series of addresses which is the principal part of Macdonald College's War Memorial.

As most of our readers are aware, McGill University's War Memorial, for which contributions have been received over a considerable period of time, is the athletic centre on Pine Avenue. This is the only physical memorial which it is proposed to erect. The Macdonald College War Memorial Committee, by whom subscriptions were received from Macdonald graduates, decided that the College should make some recognition of her own students who gave their lives in the second world war, and, after much consideration, proposed that the funds collected should be used to make possible a yearly address to all students, "the subject of which will be such as to promote an intelligent understanding of world affairs by young Canadians, and to inspire them to do their part toward the maintenance of freedom, tolerance and the improvement of human relations." The first address was given last year by the Honourable Vincent Massey.

This is the significant part of the College war memorial. But in addition, a new entrance to the Library has been constructed in the form of a stone facade in which are lighted niches where the two Books of Remembrance, containing the names of those who served in both wars, are placed. Over the doorway appears the College crest carved in the stone, and the inscription. "Ye who pass this way hold in memory and honour those who dared and those who gave their lives that we might continue here the work of peace."

The Books of Remembrance are bound in leather and the parchment pages have been inscribed and illuminated in University and College colours in the fashion of fourteenth century manuscripts by Mr. Walter Whitehead of the College staff.



The College Glee Club, Dr. Frank Hanson conducting, on the Assembly Hall stage at the Founder's Day concert.

College Honours Sir William Macdonald

Founder's Day was celebrated in traditional fashion at the College on February 10th with a half holiday, a special dinner for all resident students, a visit from the Principal, and concerts on the evenings of the 10th and 11th.

There are more students at the College than there are seats in the Assembly Hall; consequently, for the second consecutive year it was found necessary to arrange two concerts so that all students and staff members could attend one of them. The Hall was filled to capacity for the first concert, by the College Glee Club with the assistance of visiting artists from Montreal, and the standing room only sign could have been hung up for the second concert, by the Montreal Men's Choir.

These yearly concerts, and all the festivities of Founder's Day, by which students and staff honour the memory of Sir William Macdonald, are made possible by the continued interest and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Stewart of Montreal, to whom we extend a hearty "thank you."

S.P.C.A. Scholarship Winner

Mr. Lewis E. Lloyd, a fourth year student has been awarded a scholarship by the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr. Lloyd, a student of high ability, entered Mac in the fall of 1941, spent two sessions at college then enlisted in the armed forces. He was on active service



with the Army overseas until the summer of 1946, and on obtaining his discharge he re-entered college to complete his course at the beginning of the 1946-47 session.

Born and brought up on the family farm at St. Lin, P.Q. he has always been interested in livestock, and has specialized in Animal Husbandry during his college course.

Good Concrete Comes From Clean Sand and Gravel

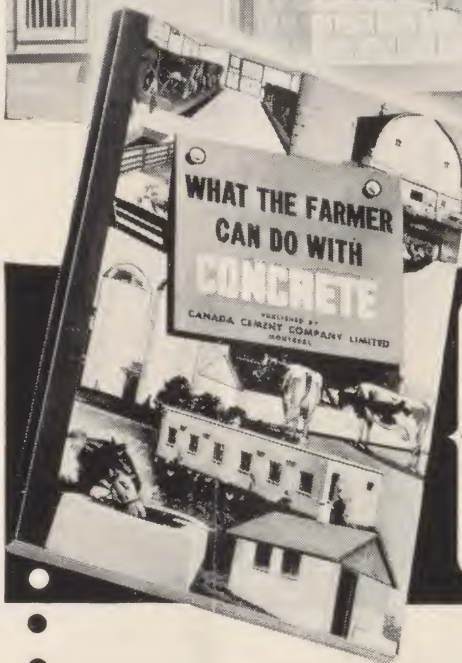
Probably most failures in making concrete come from using dirty sand or gravel. By dirty is meant sand or gravel which contains organic material which may be enough to keep the concrete from setting at all, or at best make a very poor concrete. This material may come from the overburden of soil found in most sand pits, or it may get into the sand in other ways. A good test to discover whether a sand or gravel is suitable for concrete work is as follows.

Fill a 12 ounce graduated medicine bottle to the 4½ ounce mark with the sand to be tested. Add a 3% solution of caustic soda until the volume of sand and solution, after shaking amounts to 7 ounces. Shake well and let stand for 24 hours. If, after standing, the liquid above the sand is colourless or has a light yellowish colour, the sand may be considered satisfactory so far as organic impurities are concerned. If it runs the brown colour, especially the dark brown, the sand is not suitable and should not be used, unless mortar tests show it to be of suitable quality.

To test sand and gravel for silt, put 4 inches of the sand into a pint bottle, then fill the bottle almost full of water. Shake well and let stand overnight. The loam and fine material will settle on the top, and the thickness of this layer should not be more than one-eighth of an inch.

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